CLAIMS

We claim:

1.   A method for modifying group membership, comprising the steps of:

receiving a request to add a first entity to a first group;

accessing an indication of a first policy from a set of policies for changing static membership of said first group; and

adding said first entity to said first group as a static member based on said first policy.

2.   A method according to claim 1, wherein:

said request is for said first entity.

3.   A method according to claim 1, wherein:

said indication is stored in an attribute of an identity profile for said first group.

4.   A method according to claim 1, wherein:

said set of policies includes an open policy, an open with filter policy, a controlled through workflow policy, and a closed policy.

5.   A method according to claim 4, wherein:

said identity profile for said first group includes a filter attribute, said filter attribute stores a filter that is used with said open with filter policy to determine whether said first entity may be added to said first group.

6.   A method according to claim 4, wherein:

said request is from said first entity.

7.   A method according to claim 4, wherein:

said controlled through workflow policy requires that workflows be used to add entities to said first group and remove entities from said first group.

8.   A method according to claim 4, wherein:

if said first policy is said controlled through workflow policy, then said first entity will be not be added to said first group if said first entity is not a participant in a

5   first step of a workflow associated with said controlled through workflow policy.

9.   A method according to claim 4, wherein:

said closed policy prevents entities from subscribing to and unsubscribing from said first group.

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10.   A method according to claim 4, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a request from said first entity to unsubscribe from said first group;

accessing said indication of said first policy; and

unsubscribing said first entity from said first, based on said first policy.

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11.   A method according to claim 1, wherein:

said indication is stored in an attribute of an identity profile for said first group;

said identity profile for said first group includes an attribute that stores an

20   indication of whether to send a message upon adding said first entity to said first group; and

said identity profile for said first group includes an attribute that stores said message.

25   12.   A method according to claim 1, wherein:

said first group is a member of a second group;

said first policy may not be less restrictive than a policy for changing static membership of said second group; and

said step of adding said first entity to said first group provides said first entity

30   with membership privileges in said second group.

13.   A method according to claim 1, wherein:

said steps of receiving, accessing and adding are performed by an integrated identity and access system.

14.   A method according to claim 13, wherein:

said integrated identity and access system is capable of authorizing said first entity to access a resource based on membership in said first group.

15.   A method according to claim 1, wherein:

said request is for said first entity; and

said indication is stored in an attribute of an identity profile for said first group.

16.   A method according to claim 1, wherein:

said request is from said first entity;

said indication is stored in an attribute of an identity profile for said first group; and

said set of policies includes an open policy, an open with filter policy, a controlled through workflow policy, and a closed policy.

17.   A method according to claim 1, wherein:

said step of adding includes determining whether to add said first entity to said first group based on said first policy.

18.   A method for modifying group membership, comprising the steps of:

receiving a request to remove a first static member from a first group;

accessing an indication of a first policy from a set of policies for changing static membership of said first group; and

removing said first static member from said first group based on said first policy.

19.   A method according to claim 18, wherein:

said request is from said first entity.

20.   A method according to claim 18, wherein:

said indication is stored in an attribute of an identity profile for said first group.

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21.   A method according to claim 18, wherein:

said set of policies includes an open policy, an open with filter policy, a controlled through workflow policy, and a closed policy.

10   22.   A method according to claim 18, wherein:

said request is from said first entity;

said indication is stored in an attribute of an identity profile for said first group; and

said set of policies includes an open policy, an open with filter policy, a

15   controlled through workflow policy, and a closed policy.

23.   A method according to claim 18, wherein:

said first group is a member of a second group;

said first policy may not be less restrictive than a policy for changing static

20   membership of said second group; and

said step of removing said first entity has an effect of removing said first entity from said second group.

24.   One or more processor readable storage devices having processor

25   readable code embodied on said processor readable storage devices, said processor readable code for programming one or more processors to perform a method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request to add a first entity to a first group;

accessing an indication of a first policy from a set of policies for changing

30   static membership of said first group; and

adding said first entity to said first group as a static member based on said first policy.

25.   One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 24, wherein:

said request is from said first entity.

26.   One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 24, wherein:

said indication is stored in an attribute of an identity profile for said first group.

27.   One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 24, wherein:

said set of policies includes an open policy, an open with filter policy, a controlled through workflow policy, and a closed policy.

28.   One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 24, wherein:

said request is from said first entity;

said indication is stored in an attribute of an identity profile for said first group; and

said set of policies includes an open policy, an open with filter policy, a controlled through workflow policy, and a closed policy.

29.   One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 24, wherein:

said first group is a member of a second group;

said first policy may not be less restrictive than a policy for changing static membership of said second group; and

said step of adding said first entity to said first group provides said first entity with membership privileges in said second group.

30.   One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 24,

wherein:

said steps of receiving, accessing and adding are performed by an integrated identity and access system.

5   31.   One or more processor readable storage devices having processor readable code embodied on said processor readable storage devices, said processor readable code for programming one or more processors to perform a method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request to remove a first static member from a first group;

10   accessing an indication of a first policy from a set of policies for changing static membership of said first group; and

removing said first static member from said first group based on said first policy.

15   32.   One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 31, wherein:

said request is from said first entity.

33.   One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 31,

20   wherein:

said indication is stored in an attribute of an identity profile for said first group.

34.   One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 31,

25   wherein:

said set of policies includes an open policy, an open with filter policy, a controlled through workflow policy, and a closed policy.

35.   One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 31,

30   wherein:

said request is for said first entity;

said indication is stored in an attribute of an identity profile for said first

group; and

said set of policies includes an open policy, an open with filter policy, a controlled through workflow policy, and a closed policy.

5   36.   One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 31, wherein:

said first group is a member of a second group;

said first policy may not be less restrictive than a policy for changing static membership of said second group; and

10   said step of removing said first entity has an effect of removing said first entity from said second group.

37.   An apparatus that can modify group membership, comprising:

a communication interface; and

15   one or more processors in communication with said communication interface, said one or more processors perform a method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request to add a first entity to a first group,

accessing an indication of a first policy from a set of policies for changing static membership of said first group, and

20   adding said first entity to said first group as a static member based on said first policy.

38.   An apparatus according to claim 37, wherein:

said request is from said first entity;

25   said indication is stored in an attribute of an identity profile for said first group; and

said set of policies includes an open policy, an open with filter policy, a controlled through workflow policy, and a closed policy.

30   39.   An apparatus according to claim 37, wherein:

said first group is a member of a second group;

said first policy may not be less restrictive than a policy for changing static

membership of said second group; and

said step of adding said first entity to said first group provides said first entity with membership privileges in said second group.

5   40.   An apparatus that can modify group membership, comprising:

a communication interface; and

one or more processors in communication with said communication interface, said one or more processors perform a method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request to remove a first static member from a first group,

10   accessing an indication of a first policy from a set of policies for changing static membership of said first group, and

removing said first static member from said first group based on said first policy.

15   41.   An apparatus according to claim 40, wherein:

said request is from said first entity;

said indication is stored in an attribute of an identity profile for said first group; and

said set of policies includes an open policy, an open with filter policy, a

20   controlled through workflow policy, and a closed policy.

42.   An apparatus according to claim 40, wherein:

said first group is a member of a second group;

said first policy may not be less restrictive than a policy for changing static

25   membership of said second group; and

said step of removing said first entity has an effect of removing said first entity from said second group.